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DEADMAN PG. 13
--BACK AT THE CIRCUS AT LAST!
"MURDER HAUNTS THE MIDWAY!"

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"THE CALL OF THE COSMOS!"
--IS IT A SUMMONS TO DEATH?

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AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE, AN END TO WAR THAT SHOOK THE STARS!

ELONGATED MAN PG. 46
"THE CASE OF THE FORTUNE COOKIE FORTUNE!"

Wonder Woman PG. 53
HE HUNTS THE MIGHTIEST HEROES ON EARTH--AND NOW HE'S AFTER THE AMAZING AMAZON--
"THE SHARK'S DARK DEMAND!"

WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING THAT'S AS NEW AS TOMORROW AND AS OLD AS COMICS THEMSELVES. AND MORE EXCITING THAN EITHER, IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO ABOUT IT.

THE VERY FIRST COMICS WERE COLLECTIONS OF ALREADY EXISTING SERIES; REPRINT EDITIONS IN THE EARLIEST YEARS, THEN NEW STORIES OF THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED STARS. THEN, AS THE DECADES PASSED, COMICS GREW SLIMMER AND THE SINGLE STAR COMIC EVOLVED, BEGINNING WITH COMICS LIKE *SUPERMAN*. THE ANTHOLOGY FADED AWAY, HANGING ON ONLY IN REPRINT FORM, AND THEN USUALLY FEATURING ONE HERO OR ONE THEME.

ADVENTURE COMICS IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE CONCEPTS. FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE'LL ONLY BE PUBLISHING NEW MATERIAL. AND THE ONLY UNIFYING THEME OF THE STORIES IN THIS MAGAZINE WILL BE THE VERY BEST MATERIAL AVAILABLE. NO "SPECIAL SUPER-HEROES TURN TO ANIMALS" ISSUES. NO "FEATURING ALL THE SUPPORTING CHARACTERS WHO SHOULD HAVE STAYED SUPPORTING CHARACTERS" ISSUES. JUST PURE, UNCUT GOOD STUFF.

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THE FACT THAT NO HERO DOMINATES *ADVENTURE COMICS* ALSO GIVES US TREMENDOUS FLEXIBILITY, AND WE HOPE TO USE THAT TO GREAT ADVANTAGE.

-- *CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER!*

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE --

The FLASH

POOR GUY--

--ONLY HAS ANOTHER 3/100ths OF A SECOND BEFORE HE HITS!

A HOPELESSLY ENTANGLED PARACHUTE--A HELPLESSLY FLAILING SKYDIVER PLUMMETING TOWARD THE GROUND AT 325 MILES PER HOUR--AND THE FLASH RACING CROSS-COUNTRY AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED MOST PHYSICISTS WOULD CONSIDER BARELY THEORETICAL!

BUT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH THE ASTOUNDING FEATS OF...

The CRIMSON COMETS of FALLVILLE HIGH

AN OFF-BEAT SUPER-SPEED ADVENTURE by:

CARY BATES / WRITER | I. NOVICK & F. McLAUGHLIN / ARTISTS | GASPAR, LETTERER | G. D'ANGELO, COLORIST | PAUL LEVITZ / EDITOR

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3/100ths OF A SECOND--AN INFINITESMAL SLIVER OF TIME TO THE REST OF THE WORLD...

...BUT TO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--3/100ths OF A SECOND IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME...

ZONG!

...TO INVISIBLY SAVE A LIFE AND BE ON HIS WAY!

GOOD GOD! I'M ALIVE AND STILL STANDING... BUT WHY?

AND WHILE THE GRATEFUL PARACHUTIST FINALLY FALLS TO THE GROUND--SOME SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES BACK...

I'D BETTER REALLY HUSTLE!

FALLVILLE 13 MILES

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE PROBABLY SAYING ABOUT ME BY NOW...

"...BACK AT OLD FALLVILLE HIGH..."

HAS ANYBODY SEEN FRED PRESCOTT YET? THAT SON-OF-A-GUN STILL OWES ME FIVE DOLLARS I LOANED HIM ON OUR GRADUATION DAY!

OBVIOUSLY YOU DIDN'T HEAR, TONY! FRED PRESCOTT DIED LAST MONTH--IN A HUNTING ACCIDENT!

POOR FRED-- HE WAS ALWAYS THE *UNLUCKY* TYPE!

SPEAKING OF "*LATE*" CLASSMATES--DOES ANYONE KNOW IF *SLOW* AND *LAZY* BARRY ALLEN WILL BE GRACING US WITH HIS PRESENCE?

FALLVILLE HIGH 15TH RELINION

SAME OLD *RACHEL*...

...STILL BAD-RAPPING ME EVERY CHANCE SHE GETS!

HA! SAME OLD *BARRY*--LEAVE IT TO HIM TO SHOW UP *FORTY-FIVE MINUTES* AFTER EVERYONE ELSE!

BARRY, MY MAN! I SEE YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO OUTGROW THAT LAME *CREWCUT* YOU USED TO HAVE!

HI, TONY! IF YOU'RE EVEN *HALF* AS SUCCESSFUL AS YOU *LOOK*--I'D SAY THAT BUSINESS OF YOURS IS *FLOURISHING!*

AND YOU--YOU'VE TURNED INTO QUITE A *TEMPTRESS*, I *ALMOST* WISH I WASN'T A HAPPILY MARRIED MAN!

I'LL BET! BUT I'D *STILL* TURN YOU DOWN--JUST LIKE I DID ALL THROUGH OUR SENIOR YEAR!

YOU MUST'VE ASKED ME OUT *TEN TIMES!*

YOU MUST BE JOKING! *FIVE* TIMES IS THE MOST I'LL ADMIT TO!

PETE! PETE FORNETELL! LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU, YOU OLD SON-OF-A-GUN!

THE AFTERNOON WEARS ON...AS REUNITED HIGH SCHOOL CHUMS TALK OVER OLD TIMES AND TRY TO BRING THEIR RESPECTIVE LIVES UP TO DATE...

AND YET, AS FAR AS *ONE* FALLVILLE ALUMNUS IS CONCERNED...

...THE MOOD HAS ABRUPTLY TURNED FAR FROM FESTIVE!

BUT RACH-- WHY THE SUDDEN URGE FOR US TO BE ALONE? YOU NEVER CAME ON TO ME BEFORE?

BE QUIET AND LISTEN FOR ONCE!

REMEMBER OUR DEBATING TEAM--AND HOW I AMAZED EVERYONE WITH MY INTUITION BY GUESSING THE OTHER TEAM'S MAJOR POINTS?

IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN "INTUITION"! THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN ADVANCED ESP EXPERIMENTS AT THE STAR INSTITUTE IN METROPOLIS!

ESP! WOW! YOU'RE INTO STUFF LIKE MENTAL TELEPATHY?

ALL TELEPATHY IS MENTAL, TONY! ANYWAY, THE STAR LABS HAVE VERIFIED I HAVE THE ABILITY TO OCCASIONALLY READ MINDS!

I STILL CAN'T CONTROL IT... WHICH IS WHY WHAT JUST HAPPENED CAUGHT ME SO COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD!

I-I WASN'T EVEN TRYING...

...BUT A MINUTE AGO, I TUNED IN ON A VERY STRONG AND UN-MISTAKABLE MENTAL IMPRESSION THAT ACTUALLY TOOK MY BREATH AWAY!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, TONY--

--ONE OF OUR FORMER CLASS-MATES IS SECRETLY THE FLASH!

AND I KNOW WHICH ONE!

OH COME OFF IT, RACH-- YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

OMIGOD! I THINK YOU REALLY MEAN IT!

YOU'RE GOING TO STAND THERE AND TELL ME WHO THE FLASH REALLY IS!

IN THE CORNER OF A DESERTED GYMNASIUM HALLWAY, SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER--A SILENT ARSONIST HAS DECIDED TO GO TO WORK...

GYM

...AND SOON, THE SMOKE AND FLAMES BEGIN TO FILL THE HALL...

FIRE! FIRE!

EVERYBODY--RUN FOR THE EXITS!

LOOK AT ALL THAT SMOKE! THE FLAMES MUST BE CLOSE BY!

-COUGH- LET ME OUT OF HERE!

WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS TAKING-OFF IN A PANIC--NO ONE WILL SEE ME TAKE-OFF AT INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED!

THAT'S WHAT I CALL A FULL-FLEDGED BLAZE--AND IT'S SPREADING FAST!

SO I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO PUT IT OUT FASTER!

BY LITERALLY STOMPING OVER EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THESE FLAMES--

--BACK AND FORTH A THOUSAND TIMES IN ONE SINGLE SECOND--

--I'M ABLE TO SMOTHER THE BLAZE WITH NOTHING MORE THAN THE SOLES OF MY SHOES!

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SCARCELY A MOMENT LATER--THE PANICKING FALLVILLE ALUMNI GAPE IN TOTAL ASTONISHMENT ON THEIR FRANTIC WAY OUT...

GOOD GRAVY! WHAT THE BLAZES--

YOU SAID IT, PAL! I DON'T SEE ANY FLAMES!

LOOK AT THE CHARRED WALLS AND THE SMOKE!

IT MUST'VE BEEN A FIRE--

--BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

THE INCREDULOUS FACES OF THE ONLOOKERS OFFER NO ANSWER--

MANAGED TO BLEND BACK INTO THE CROWD AT SUPER-SPEED BEFORE ANYONE EVEN DISCOVERED I WAS MISSING!

NOBODY KNOWS I STARTED THAT FIRE! I KNEW IF THE FLASH REALLY WAS AMONG US--HE'D PROBABLY SLIP AWAY INVISIBLY AND PUT THE FLAMES OUT HIMSELF!

AND APPARENTLY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED! ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE HIM DO A THING--

--THE EXTINGUISHED FIRE PROVES RACHEL WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT--

--THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE IS STANDING ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY FROM US!

AND SO...

...THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S TONY LARSON, CALLING LONG-DISTANCE--COLLECT!

NOW PUT ME THROUGH TO THE HEAD MAN! WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS FOR HIS EARS ALONE!

PHONES

WELL, WELL, LARSON. NOT ONLY DO YOU TAKE UP MY VALUABLE TIME... YOU EVEN HAVE THE AUDACITY TO CHARGE ME FOR IT!

THIS HAD BETTER BE SOMETHING NO LESS THAN EXTRAORDINARY!

SEVERAL HOURS PASS AND TWO OF THE FALLVILLE ALUMNI DECIDE TO STEP AWAY FROM THE FESTIVITIES FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR...

NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY, BARRY?

YOU WEREN'T EXAGGERATING ONE IOTA, NATHAN! SHE'S A REAL BEAUTY--I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE SO PROUD OF HER!

AND SHE CAN DO 0-TO-60 IN 6 SECONDS FLAT! BUT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!

C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU FOR A SPIN!

ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO TAKE IT EASY!

I STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN RIDING WITH YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL, NATHAN! ONCE YOU GET BEHIND THE WHEEL--

--YOU'RE-- UHHHH!

WHOK!

BARRY!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, LARSON--OR IS GIVING SOMEONE A CONCUSSION JUST YOUR WAY OF SAYING HELLO?

SHUT UP AND GET BEHIND THE WHEEL!

THE RIDE IS STILL ON--ONLY NOW YOU'VE GOT A NEW PASSENGER!

BUT BARRY... HE'S UNCONSCIOUS... HE'LL NEED A DOCTOR!

AND HE'LL GET ONE-- AS SOON AS ONE OF OUR BELOVED CLASSMATES WANDERS OUTSIDE AND STUMBLES OVER HIM!

MEANTIME, WE'LL BE LONG GONE! NOW HIT THE GAS!

YOU MIND TELLING ME WHERE WE'RE GOING?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO! IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE-- JUST KEEP DRIVING SOUTH ON ROUTE 121!

LIKE ALLEN SAID--YOU'D BETTER TAKE IT NICE AND EASY!

AND SPEAKING OF ALLEN...

≈Whew≈ I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE LUMP I'D HAVE ON MY HEAD RIGHT NOW...

...IF IT WASN'T FOR MY OWN SHARP EARS AND SUPER-FAST REFLEXES!

AS THE COMPRESSED SCARLET UNIFORM IS EJECTED INTO THE AIR FROM THE SECRET COMPARTMENT OF BARRY'S RING...

...HE RECALLS THE MENACING SOUND OF A BLACKJACK WHOOSHING THROUGH THE AIR BEHIND HIM A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE IMPACT...

JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO SECRETLY ABSORB THE BLOW BY INCHING MY HEAD FORWARD EVER SO SLIGHTLY AT SUPER-SPEED!

BUT WHAT'S WITH TONY LARSON?

WHY WOULD HE ATTACK BARRY ALLEN AND THEN FORCE NATHAN INTO HIS CAR AT GUNPOINT?

NONE OF IT MAKES ANY SENSE TO ME!

AT THAT MOMENT, NATHAN WOULD BE THE FIRST TO AGREE...

EITHER YOU'VE GOT TO BE ON SOMETHING THAT'S TOTALLY WIPED OUT YOUR COMMON SENSE, TONY--OR THIS IS THE WORST PRACTICAL JOKE YOU'VE EVER PULLED!

NATHAN--THAT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF ANSWER I EXPECTED...

...FROM SOMEONE DESPERATELY TRYING TO PROTECT HIS SECRET IDENTITY! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE PLAYED ALONG THIS FAR--

--NOT USING YOUR SUPER-SPEED TO DISARM ME!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! WHY IS RACHEL SO POSITIVE I'M THE FLASH?

ESP, MY BOY! RACHEL IS APPARENTLY SOME SORT OF FEMALE URI GELLER!

SHE SAYS SHE PICKED UP AN UNMISTAKABLE ESP IMPRESSION FROM YOUR MIND ABOUT BEING THE FLASH!

AND THE WAY YOU INVISIBLY PUT OUT THAT FIRE PROVED SHE WAS RIGHT ON!

BOY, DO YOU HAVE A WRONG NUMBER!

I'M SURE RACHEL DID PICK UP THOUGHTS FROM ME ABOUT RUNNING AROUND AS THE FLASH--

--BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU THINK!

MERIHEW DAM PROJECT
GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
KEEP OUT!

SPASSHH!!

OBVIOUSLY YOU DON'T WATCH MUCH TELEVISION, TONY... OR YOU'D KNOW I'M A STRUGGLING ACTOR!

NEXT MONTH I'LL BEGIN THE MOST CHALLENGING TV ROLE OF MY CAREER--

--PORTRAYING THE FLASH!

SINCE I BELONG TO THE METHOD SCHOOL OF ACTING, I TRY TO ACTUALLY LIVE MY PARTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN PREPARATION!

I EVEN HAVE A FLASH UNIFORM IN MY SUITCASE BACK AT THE MOTEL--

I PRACTICE POSING IN IT IN FRONT OF A MIRROR EVERY CHANCE I GET!

NICE TRY, SPEEDSTER! YOU MIGHT BE AN EVEN BETTER ACTOR THAN YOU THINK--

--BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT ME ALMOST BELIEVING YOUR CLEVER STORY!

HOWEVER, READERS AS SOME OF YOU OUT THERE MAY HAVE ALREADY GUESSED...

...THE REAL SCARLET SPEEDSTER BELIEVES EVERY WORD OF IT--BECAUSE HE'S HEARD EVERY WORD OF IT-- VIBRATING INVISIBLY ALONG FOR THE RIDE...

POOR NATHAN! I'LL BET HE NEVER DREAMED SIGNING ON TO PORTRAY ME COULD GET HIM INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE!

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

OKAY, TONY-- ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

NOW--I'VE GOT A STORY FOR YOU... ONLY MINE ISN'T QUITE SO ORIGINAL!

A YOUNG MAN WITH AN EXPENSIVE WIFE AND A FAILING BUSINESS STARTS GAMBLING WITH THE LITTLE MONEY HE HAS LEFT OUT OF SHEER DESPERATION--

--AND IN A FEW MONTHS HE'S IN DEBT TO THE MOB FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!

HE CAN'T PAY... SO HE DECIDES TO GO ON THE RUN... BUT FIRST HE'S SENTIMENTAL ENOUGH TO STOP OFF AT HIS HIGH SCHOOL REUNION--

--JUST FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE!

THEN HE FINDS OUT ONE OF HIS OLD SCHOOL CHUMS IS SECRETLY THE FLASH!

SO HE PHONES THE MOB LEADER-- AND SETS UP A RENDEZVOUS ON TOP OF AN ABANDONED DAM PROJECT--

--BECAUSE HE ANNOUNCES HE'S GIVING HIMSELF UP!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, TONY? THOSE ARE PROFESSIONAL KILLERS COMING TOWARD US!

THEY'LL MURDER US BOTH RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT!

YES THEY WILL, OLD BUDDY--

--UNLESS THE FLASH GOES INTO SOME FAST ACTION!

EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME... I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T LET A HELPLESS MAN DIE AT THE HANDS OF RUTHLESS MOBSTERS!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, TONY-- LET'S GET BACK IN MY CAR AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO BELIEVE ME-- I'M NOT THE FLASH!!

...

THE NEXT INSTANT--SUDDENLY SPIRALLING UP OUT OF THIN AIR...

NATHAN?

WHERE DID THAT SWIRLING DUST CLOUD COME FROM?

TONY WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE ANSWER EVEN IF HE KNEW

HOW COULD HE BELIEVE THE FLASH WAS FAST ENOUGH TO RACE AWAY TO THE FALLVILLE MOTEL AND RETRIEVE NATHAN'S FLASH UNIFORM FROM HIS ROOM--

Fallville MOTEL

--THEN RACE BACK WITH IT, ALL IN THE TIME OF A SINGLE BLINK OF AN EYE?

OR THAT HE COULD INVISIBLY WHIP UP A COCOON OF DUST TO CAMOUFLAGE AN EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF SUPER-SPEED DEXTERITY?

TONY WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING--

THE FLASH IS THE ONLY HOPE HE AND NATHAN HAVE RIGHT NOW!

SO THAT'S HOW YOU GET INTO UNIFORM--INSIDE A SWIRLING CLOUD OF DUST!

OH NO! HOW CAN THIS REALLY BE HAPPENING?

YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN WAITING TILL THE LAST MINUTE, DON'T YOU?

HOW CAN I BE WEARING MY FLASH COSTUME??

THE FLASH? WHERE DID HE SPRING UP FROM?

BLAST THAT LARSON! HE SET US UP FOR THIS!

GUN IT-- PLOW INTO THEM!

TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE TO DO ANY-THING ELSE? WE DIDN'T THINK SO!

WHAT COULD BE BETTER PREPARATION FOR NATHAN'S UPCOMING FLASH-ROLE--

--THAN TO KNOW FIRST-HAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO USE SUPER-SPEED!

GOOD LORD! MY ARM IS MOVING SO FAST I CAN'T EVEN SEE IT!

AND THE RESULTING AIR-BLAST IS SO POWERFUL IT BRINGS A FOUR-TON VEHICLE TO A SUDDEN HALT...

N-NOW W-WHAT'S H-HE D-DOING?

W-WOULD Y-YOU B-BELIEVE H-HE'S S-SHAKING U-US A-APART?

I TH-THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!

I'M ALREADY S-SICK!

NATHAN, YOU WERE SENSATIONAL!

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THE FLASH IN ACTION!

I MUST AGREE, NATHAN--YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A FIRST-RATE TV SPEEDSTER!

GOOD GRIEF! ANOTHER FLASH!!

NO, YOU IDIOT--THAT'S THE REAL FLASH!!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON--A PAIR OF FALLVILLE ALUMNI ARE AMONG THE LAST TO FILE OUT OF THEIR FONDLY-REMEMBERED HALLOWED HALLS...

...OF COURSE, POOR TONY WILL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR HIS DEBTS--BUT AT LEAST NOW HE'S GOT PROPER POLICE PROTECTION!

I JUST HOPE SOMEDAY I CAN PROPERLY THANK FLASH FOR THE SUPER-SPEED THRILL OF MY LIFETIME!

FALLVILLE HIGH

JUST BE A BRILLIANT SCARLET SPEEDSTER--THAT OUGHT TO BE THANKS ENOUGH!

BUT WHILE NATHAN AND BARRY SAY THEIR FINAL GOODBYES OUTSIDE...

HMMMM...IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THIS I WISH I HAD MORE CONTROL OVER MY FLEETING MIND-READING ABILITIES!

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHY...

...BUT I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SOMEBODY AROUND HERE KNOWS A LOT MORE THAN HE'S TELLING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE TODAY...

...MAYBE AT THE NEXT REUNION I'LL FIND OUT WHO THAT SOMEBODY IS!

THE END

THE CIRCUS: TO MOST, IT IS A DYING ANACHRONISM, A THING OF RAGS AND TATTERS ULTIMATELY DESTINED FOR THE SCRAP-HEAP...

BUT STILL, THERE IS A SPECIAL KIND OF MAGIC TO BE FOUND HERE, A PHANTASMAGORIC TAPESTRY WOVEN OF SIGHT AND SOUND AND SMELL--

--THE SIGHT OF LEOTARD-CLAD ACROBATS AND GREASE-PAINTED CLOWNS, THE SOUND OF A WEAKY CALLIOPE, THE SMELL OF STALE SAWDUST AND CHEAP BUTTERED POPCORN...

ALL THIS IS PART OF THE FAMOUS HILL'S CIRCUS-- ALL THIS, AND ONE THING MORE...

...FOR THERE IS A PRESENCE WHICH HAUNTS THIS MAZE OF TATTERED CANVAS TENTS AND SAWDUST-STREWN AVENUES, A FRUSTRATED SPIRIT WHO WAS ONCE CALLED BOSTON BRAND, BUT WHO NOW IS NO MORE THAN A...

DEADMAN

LOOK AT 'EM DOWN THERE ...LAUGHING... LOVING...HAVING FUN...ENJOYING THINGS I CAN ONLY DREAM OF!

THAT GUY WHO SAID YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN WAS RIGHT! I DON'T BE-LONG HERE ANYMORE!

MAYBE I DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE!

MURDER HAUNTS THE MIDWAY

AN ADVENTURE OF SOUL-SEARING SHOCK AND SUSPENSE, BY-- LEN WEIN (WRITER) • JIM APARO (ARTIST) • GLYNIS WEIN (COLORIST) • PAUL LEVITZ (EDITOR)

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I NEVER SHOULD'VE COME BACK--AND I NEVER WOULD HAVE--IF RAMA KUSHNA HADN'T COMPELLED ME TO COME!

AT LEAST, I THINK RAMA COMPELLED ME! OTHERWISE, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE...

...BUT I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT!

AND, WAFTING THROUGH THE CANVAS TENT, LIKE THE SUBSTANCELESS SPIRIT THAT HE IS...

FIGURED I'D FIND EVERYONE HERE NOW... LORNA... TINY... VASHNU... LITA... AND ALL THE REST...

...SINCE IT'S TIME FOR MY TWIN BROTHER CLEVELAND TO GO INTO MY ACT, AND THAT'S ONE THING THIS GANG WOULDN'T MISS FOR THE WORLD!

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE MOST DEVILISHLY DANGEROUS AND DARING ACT IN THE HISTORY OF AERIAL ACROBATICS! THE MAN WHO NIGHTLY PITS HIS VERY LIFE AGAINST THE FATES--DEADMAN!!

EVERYTIME DAD GOES UP THERE, INGA, I DIE A LITTLE--WAITING FOR HIS REFLEXES TO BE JUST A FRACTION TOO SLOW, WAITING FOR HIM TO MAKE THAT FINAL, FATAL SLIP!

WHY, INGA? WHY DOES HE DO IT?

BECAUSE HE HAS TO, LITA--OR THINKS HE DOES!

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL, LITA HONEY. EVERY TIME YOUR UNCLE BOSTON CLIMBED THAT RIGGING, MY HEART WOULD SKIP A HALF-DOZEN BEATS!

BUT HE WAS A PROFESSIONAL, MY BOSTON BRAND--AND THERE WAS ALWAYS AN AUDIENCE WAITING!

AND MAYBE... MAYBE THAT WAS PART OF WHY I LOVED HIM!

LORNA... OH, LORNA BABY, I ALWAYS KNEW YOU CARED! I'M ONLY SORRY I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO TELL YOU HOW I FELT ABOUT YOU!

BUT THEN, YOU KNEW... DIDN'T YOU?

I JUST WISH I WAS AS *ALTRUISTIC* AS YOU PAINT ME, LORNA...

...BUT THE PRIMARY REASON I WENT UP ON THAT *TRAPEZE* THREE TIMES A DAY-- PLUS WEEKEND *MATINEES*-- WAS BECAUSE IT WAS ALL I KNEW *HOW* TO DO...

...AND BECAUSE I DID IT *BETTER* THAN ANYONE ELSE *ALIVE!*

MOVE *OVER*, BROTHER --I'M BORROWING YOUR *BODY* FOR A WHILE!

YOU'RE *GOOD*, CLEVE, ALMOST AS GOOD AS *I* WAS, BUT THERE'S *ONE*-- AND *ONLY* ONE-- *DEADMAN!!*

AND, FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MINUTES, THE STAR-CROSSED *SHADE* OF BOSTON BRAND DOES HIS BEST TO *PROVE* HIS CLAIM--

--PUTTING THE CRIMSON-CLAD BODY OF HIS BROTHER THROUGH *PACES* WHICH LEAVE THE WIDE-EYED *AUDIENCE* GASPING FOR BREATH...

...AND MAKE A *DEADMAN* FEEL ALMOST *ALIVE* AGAIN!

MAN, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW *GOOD* THIS COULD BE! WHATEVER PROBLEMS I HAD ON THE *GROUND*, UP HERE I COULD ALWAYS *FORGET* THEM!

SO THEN WHY IS SOMETHING *GNAWING* AT THE BASE OF MY *SKULL?*

I'VE GOT A LOUSY FEELING SOMETHING'S *WRONG* HERE... SOMETHING'S *VERY* WRONG...

THE THOUGHT IS *PUNCTUATED* BY THE HEART-STOPPING SOUND OF A *RIFLE SHOT!*

BLAM

NO--NOT AGAIN! IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING *AGAIN!!*

HELPLESSLY, DEADMAN *PLUMMETS* TOWARD THE HARD-PACKED EARTH BELOW--AND THE *MEMORIES* COME UNBIDDEN...

BLAM

...FOR BOSTON BRAND HAS FELT THE SICKENING IMPACT OF A HIGH-VELOCITY *RIFLE SLUG* ONCE BEFORE...

...ON THE DAY THAT HE WAS *MURDERED!*

IT'S *TOO LATE!* BOSTON BRAND IS *DEAD!*

WHY, TINY? WHY A WONDERFUL GUY LIKE *HIM?*

I DUNNO, MISS LORNA! *NOBODY* KNOWS, I GUESS!

BUT *RAMA KUSHNA* KNEW--FOR THIS WAS JUST THE *BEGINNING* OF THE SPECIAL FATE AWAITING BOSTON BRAND...

WHAT WAS EVERYBODY *TALKING* ABOUT? I'M NOT *DEAD!* I *CAN'T* BE *DEAD!*

WHY WON'T *SOMEBODY LISTEN* TO ME?

AND, STILL PROTESTING LOUDLY, BOSTON BRAND STAGGERED OUT OF THE *TENT...*

MAN, THAT RAIN FEELS *GOOD!* IT'S...

HEY, THAT'S ONE OF PROFESSOR QUIGLEY'S TRAINED *MICE!* BETTER *GRAB* IT BEFORE IT *ESCAPES!*

HUH! M-MY *HAND..* IT WENT RIGHT *THROUGH* HIM!

OF COURSE, MY SON--YOU ARE NOT ALIVE! THERE IS NO MORE SUBSTANCE TO YOUR BODY THAN THERE IS TO THE WEST WIND--OR THE APRIL MIST!

WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME?

LISTEN WELL, BOSTON BRAND.. TO THE WORDS OF RAMA KUSHNA! I GRANT YOU THE POWER TO WALK AMONG MEN UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND THE ONE WHO KILLED YOU!

BUT *HOW*? *HOW*??

THE *ANSWER* TO THAT SOON BECAME *APPARENT*...

WHAT IN--?!? I'M ENTERING TINY'S BODY!

THEN *THIS* IS THE POWER RAMA KUSHNA GRANTED ME-- THE POWER TO INHABIT AND *CONTROL* THE LIVING BODIES OF *OTHERS*!

THUS ARMED, BOSTON BRAND SET OUT TO TRACK DOWN HIS OWN *MURDERER*! HIS ONLY *CLUE*, THE GLEAMING *HOOK* THAT FORMED HIS KILLER'S RIGHT *HAND*!

ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE *WORLD* HIS QUEST LED HIM--

--UNTIL, AT LAST, HE CONFRONTED THE HOOK IN THE LAIR OF THE *LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS*...

I PICKED BOSTON BRAND'S NAME FROM A *CIRCUS POSTER*... THOUGHT HE'D MAKE THE PERFECT *TEST*... HIS *DEATH* WOULD BE MY TICKET TO *JOIN* YOU!

BUT YOU *FAILED*--AND NOW YOU MUST PAY THE *PRICE*!

...AND DEADMAN LEARNED HOW TRULY *HOLLOW* VENGEANCE CAN OFTTIMES BE...

I *WANTED* THE HOOK--BUT NOT LIKE *THIS*! THERE'S NO *JUSTICE* THIS WAY--NO *SATISFACTION*!

YOU SEEK SATISFACTION, DEADMAN?

I SEEK SOMETHING, RAMA! I DON'T KNOW--MAYBE JUST A CHANCE TO BALANCE THE GOOD AND EVIL I'VE SEEN!

THEN IT IS YOURS, BOSTON BRAND! USE IT WISELY!

AND SINCE THAT DAY, BOSTON BRAND HAS STRIVED TO DO PRECISELY THAT...SOMETIMES ALONE...SOMETIMES AS AN UNSEEN FORCE AIDING OTHERS...

HE HAS TRIED HIS BEST...HE HAS FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT...

...AND NOW, IT SEEMS, HE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE!

IT HAS TAKEN THE SMALLEST PART OF AN INSTANT FOR THE MEMORIES TO UNFOLD ONCE MORE--AND IT HAS TAKEN AN ETERNITY!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! RAMA KUSHNA COULDN'T HAVE CALLED ME BACK HERE JUST TO PUT ME THROUGH THIS HELL AGAIN!

AT LEAST, THIS TIME I'M CONSCIOUS--BUT THAT STILL WON'T SAVE MY BROTHER CLEVE, UNLESS...

TINY! TINY--HELP ME!!

DON'T WORRY, MISTER CLEVE! I AIN'T GONNA LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN--NOT LIKE IT HAPPENED TO MISTER BOSTON!

TINY'S GONNA CATCH YA, MISTER CLEVE! I'M GONNA CATCH YA--AN' YOU'LL BE SAFE!

UNLESS THE IMPACT KILLS THEM BOTH!

I'VE GOT TO TWIST CLEVE'S BODY IN MID-AIR... TRY TO HIT TINY JUST RIGHT... AND THEN...

AARGGH

WHUMP

YOU OKAY, MISTER CLEVE?

I...I DON'T KNOW! WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

YOU WERE SHOT, DEAR BROTHER-- AND THIS TIME, I'M GONNA NAIL THE SCUM THAT PULLED THE TRIGGER!

BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND THE CREEP IN A CROWD THIS SIZE? I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE IT EASY BY WEARING A HOOK FOR A HAND, SO HOW...

BINGO! THAT CURLY-HEADED GUY, HEADING FOR THE EXIT-- IT'S GOTTA BE HIM!

BUT BEFORE I TOTAL HIM, I'D BETTER MAKE SURE!

'SCUSE' ME, FELLA--MIND IF I TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT ABOUT ATTEMPTED MURDER?

HUH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE JABBERING ABOUT, BUDDY!

LET GO OF ME! I'M IN A HURRY!

OH, I'LL JUST BET YOU ARE, CURLY...

KLAK

...AND IT'S REALLY EASY TO SEE WHY!

FOOL! I WARNED YOU ONCE TO LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!

I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO USE THAT BODY! POUND FOR POUND, IT HASN'T GOT A PRAYER AGAINST THIS KILLER!

I'VE GOTTA FIND ANOTHER BOD-- AND FAST!

DON'T KNOW *WHY* YOU FORCED ME TO *DO* THAT, BUDDY--BUT YOU'RE LUCKY I DIDN'T *KILL* YOU!

SORRY TO *HEAR* THAT, CURLY, 'CAUSE YOU AND I AREN'T *FINISHED* YET...

ANYBODY *ELSE* WHO GETS IN MY WAY WON'T GET THE SAME *BREAK!*

...NOT BY A *LONG SHOT!*

WHOOK

HUGO? WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

I'LL *TELL* YOU WHAT HE'S DOING, SISTER--

--YOUR LUNATIC BOYFRIEND IS COMMITTING *SUICIDE!!*

UNGGK!

NOOOO!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYONE AROUND THIS TWO-BIT TENT SHOW HAS *SUDDENLY* GONE *SCREWY* --BUT I'VE HAD ABOUT *ENOUGH* OF IT!

I'M GETTING *OUT* OF HERE *NOW*--EVEN IF I HAVE TO PAVE THE WAY WITH *CORPSES!*

NO! WHAT HAVE I *DONE?* I LET MY NEED FOR *VENGEANCE* GET IN THE WAY OF MY *JUDGMENT...*

...AND NOW, *BECAUSE* OF IT, AN INNOCENT IS GOING TO *DIE!!*

SOMEHOW, I'VE GOTTA *STOP* HIM-- AND THERE'S ONE CERTAIN WAY...

...BY DOING WHAT I *SHOULD* HAVE DONE IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!

?

ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS WALK THIS BODY DOWN TO THE NEAREST *POLICE STATION*, EVIDENCE IN HAND, AND LET THE BOYS IN BLUE HANDLE ALL THE... *HUH?*

S-SOMETHING'S WRONG! THIS BODY IS... *FIGHTING ME!*

HE... HE KNOWS HE'S *LOST!* HE'S PUTTING... HIS GUN TO... HIS OWN *HEAD*...

...AND THERE'S *NOTHING*... NOTHING I CAN DO...TO *STOP* HIM!

BLAM

SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY... HE *KILLED* HIMSELF!

OH, NO... NO... NO...

HE PULLED THE *TRIGGER*... AND ALL I COULD DO WAS STAND BY AND *WATCH!*

I'VE NEVER FELT SO *HELPLESS* BEFORE... SO COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY *USELESS!*

WHY IN GOD'S NAME DID HE *DO* IT?

WHY?

WHY??

HE DOES NOT RECEIVE AN *ANSWER*...

...BUT THEN, HE DIDN'T REALLY *EXPECT* ONE!

BUT EVEN A *DEADMAN* CANNOT WALLOW IN SELF-PITY FOR *LONG*, AND THUS, *MOMENTS* LATER...

BETTER CHECK ON *CLEVE*... SEE HOW HE'S DOING...AND IF HE KNOWS *WHY* SOMEONE WOULD WANT TO *KILL* HIM!

OH, MY POOR CLEVELAND... THIS IS ALL MY *FAULT!* YOU MUST SEND ME *BACK*... BEFORE IT IS *TOO LATE!*

SEND YOU *BACK*, INGA? YOU'VE GOT TO BE *KIDDING!* MARRYING YOU WAS ONE OF THE FEW *RIGHT* THINGS I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE!

WE'RE IN THIS *TOGETHER*, DOLL--ALL THE *WAY!*

BUT, CLEVE-- I AM A *DEFECTOR!*

I KNOW MY PEOPLE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN ARE *RESPONSIBLE* FOR ALL THE *MISFORTUNE* WHICH HAS BEFALLEN THIS CIRCUS...

...AND THEY WILL NOT *STOP* UNTIL I HAVE *RETURNED* TO THEM!

CLEVE IS *RIGHT*, HONEY! YOU'RE ONE OF *US* NOW-- YOU'RE *CIRCUS PEOPLE* --AND YOU'RE GOING TO *STAY* HERE WHERE YOU *BELONG!*

THAT'S *TELLING 'EM*, LORNA BABY-- YOU STICK TO YOUR *GUNS!*

YOUR SENTIMENTS ARE MOST *NOBLE*, DEAR LADY--BUT I FEAR THERE ARE *FORCES* AT WORK HERE BEYOND OUR POOR POWER TO COMPREHEND...

...FORCES BEYOND OUR POWER TO *COMBAT!*

REALLY, VASHNU OL' BUDDY? WELL, DON'T LET 'EM *SPOOK* YOU!

AS OF NOW, YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PERSONAL *DEADMAN* ON THE TEAM!

AND RAMA KUSHNA OR *NO* RAMA KUSHNA, I'M IN THIS MESS *WITH* YOU ALL--

--RIGHT TO THE BITTER *END!*

TO BE *CONTINUED?* YOU'D BETTER *BELIEVE* IT!

HAL JORDAN -- A FEARLESS EARTHMAN **CHOSEN** BY A DYING ALIEN TO BE HIS *SUCCESSOR* IN THE UNIVERSE'S MOST *ELITE ORGANIZATION!* WIELDING THE *AWESOME ENERGIES* OF THE *POWER RING*, HE DONNED THE *EMERALD UNIFORM* OF THE COSMOS-SPANNING CORPS OF CRUSADERS AND BECAME *FIRST* AMONG EQUALS -- THE *GREATEST HERO* EVER TO BE CALLED...

GREEN LANTERN

TRUCK-DRIVING CAN BE A DANGEROUS, EXHAUSTING JOB IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, JUST ASK *HAL JORDAN*...

I *WOULD* HAVE TO RUN INTO A STORM WITH A DANGEROUS LOAD LIKE *THIS!*

ON THESE MOUNTAIN ROADS IT CUTS ME DOWN TO A *SNAIL'S PACE!*

EXPLOSIVES

LUCKY FOR ME IT'S **ONLY** A FEW MORE MILES TO CHANDLER'S *TRUCK-STOP*..

...AND MAMA CHANDLER STILL HAS THE *BEST* HOME-MADE *CHILI* IN SIX STATES!

GREAT GUARDIANS!

GREEN LANTERN OF EARTH -- HELP ME! PLEASE *HELP ME!*

SH-SHE POPPED OUT OF *NOWHERE!* CAN'T *SWERVE* IN TIME -- I'M GONNA *HIT* HER!

THE CALL of the COSMOS

An Emerald Adventure by: CARY BURKETT / WRITER — JOE STATON / ARTIST — BEN ODA / LETTERER — ADRIENNE ROY / COLORIST

ONLY CHANCE-- CREATE A *NEW* ROAD TO LIFT ME *OVER* HER--

SCREEE

--COURTESY OF MY *POWER RING!*

THIS IS FOR *REAL!* THAT LADY WAS SPEAKING IN A COMMON *INTERGALACTIC* LANGUAGE!

MISS, ARE YOU--

- MISS!

SHE'S *GONE!* *DISAPPEARED!* BUT I JUST *SAW* HER!

COULD I HAVE *IMAGINED* THE WHOLE INCIDENT?

MAYBE-- BUT I *DOUBT* IT! SHE CALLED ME *GREEN LANTERN*... ASKED FOR MY *HELP!*

..SO THAT'S WHAT SHE'S GOING TO *GET!*

JUST AS SOON AS I TAKE CARE OF A LITTLE *CHORE!*

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT! LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT--

--BEWARE MY POWER, *GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!*

A SHIMMERING SU[illegible]E OF BRIGHT ENERGY PLAYS ABOUT THE RING AS THE EMERALD GLADIATOR TOUCHES IT TO HIS POWER BATTERY, CHARGING IT FOR A FULL 24 HOURS...

THIS IS ABOUT WHERE SHE WAS STANDING! LET'S SEE IF MY RING CAN PICK UP ANY *TRACE* OF HER!

BINGO! AN *ENERGY TRAIL* -- LEADING INTO *OUTER SPACE!*

I'LL FOLLOW IT--

-- BUT FIRST I'D BETTER LEAVE A PROTECTIVE *SHIELD* AROUND MY *RIG!*

CAN'T RISK ANYTHING SETTING OFF THOSE *EXPLOSIVES* WHILE I'M GONE!

NOW TO FIND OUT WHAT'S AT THE *BOTTOM* OF THIS MYSTERY!

GREEN LANTERN'S *SPEED* IS LIMITED ONLY BY HIS *WILL*--AND IT IS MERE *NANO-SECONDS* BEFORE...

THE TRAIL LEADS INTO THAT *SHIP*-- BUT THOSE *CREATURES*...! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE* THEM BEFORE!

THEY'RE HOLDING THE SHIP *MOTIONLESS*-- DRAINING ITS *POWER!*

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THEY'RE *MEAN*-LOOKING CREATURES ALL RIGHT! I CAN SEE WHY THE OCCUPANT OF THE SHIP WOULD WANT *HELP!*

STILL, THEY SHOULDN'T GIVE *ME* ANY PROBLEM! I'LL JUST DISCOURAGE THEM WITH-- *EH?*

THAT THING--INCREDIBLE!

IT-IT'S *EATING UP* MY BEAM!

THEY'RE SOME KIND OF *SPACE PARASITE,* FEEDING OFF WHATEVER ENERGY SOURCE THEY CAN *FIND*-- LIKE THAT *SHIP!*

ONLY *NOW* THEY'VE FOUND A *NEW* SOURCE OF ENERGY--

--ME!

AAAAAAA!

THEY'VE ALL CONVERGED ON ME-- *ATTACKING!*

IT'S TAKING ALL MY *WILL POWER* JUST TO KEEP THEM FROM DRAINING MY *LIFE-FORCE!*

4

GASP!! THEY'RE STARTING TO EAT AWAY MY ENERGY SHIELD! A FEW MORE SECONDS AND--

-- WAIT A MINUTE! I JUST REALIZED...

"PART OF MY WILL-POWER HAS ALREADY BEEN DIVERTED TO MAKE A SHIELD FOR MY RIG!"

IF I CAN CONCENTRATE ON THAT ENERGY...

"... I CAN BRING THE TRUCK UP TO ME!"

"AND SINCE THE TRUCK IS LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES, WHEN IT HITS ONE OF THE CREATURES IT SHOULD--"

BLAKOOM!

DANGER!

WHEW!.. I DOUBT THAT WILL HARM THE CREATURES, BUT AT LEAST IT STUNNED THEM!

AND THEY SHOULD STAY THAT WAY LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CHECK OUT THIS SHIP!

GREEN LANTERN! THEN YOU DID RECEIVE THE MESSAGE I BEAMED DOWN WITH MY PROJECTO-IMAGE!

IT WAS GEARED TO BE ATTRACTED BY YOUR OWN PARTICULAR BRAIN WAVES!

THAT EXPLAINS WHY IT CONTACTED ME AS HAL JORDAN! I'D ALREADY FIGURED OUT IT WAS A PROJECTED IMAGE!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS SPACE-SECTOR?

I-IT'S REALLY VERY *SIMPLE*, GREEN LANTERN! I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR *YOU* BECAUSE YOU SEE...

...I *LOVE* YOU!

I-I'VE LOVED YOU FROM THE DAY YOU VISITED MY WORLD OF *SHATOU* ...WHEN YOU SAVED US FROM THE *GREAT FLOOD!*

"MILLIONS WERE *GRATEFUL* TO YOU-- BUT SOMEHOW *I* FELT *MORE*... I KNEW I HAD TO *SEE* YOU AGAIN!

"THAT'S WHY I VOLUNTEERED FOR AN EXPLORATORY MISSION THAT WOULD TAKE ME TO *YOUR* SPACE-SECTOR!"

MY QUALIFICATIONS IN THE SPACE-ACADEMY WERE *IMPECCABLE*... THERE WAS NO PROBLEM IN BEING *ACCEPTED!*

HOWEVER, I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED ENCOUNTERING THE *ENERGY-LEECHES!*

THEY PURSUED ME FROM MY GALAXY... DRAINING MOST OF THE POWER FROM MY SHIP UNTIL IT COULD NOT MOVE-- *OHHHH!*

WELL DON'T LOOK *NOW*, MISS...

...BUT I THINK THEY'VE COME BACK FOR THE *REST!*

YOU SEEM TO BE *FAMILIAR* WITH THESE CREATURES-- IS THERE ANYTHING THAT *WEAKENS* THEM?

N-NO! I KNOW OF *NOTHING*! EVEN THE FREEZING *VACUUM* OF SPACE DOES NOT *HARM* THEM!

IT *DOESN'T*, EH...?

IT'S *TRUE*... THEY ACTUALLY *EXIST* IN THIS *NON*-TEMPERATURE!

THEIR BODIES ARE ADAPTED TO THE EXTREME *COLD*...

...SO I WONDER HOW THEY WOULD *REACT*...

...TO A *HEAT-BLAST!*

YES... IT *BOTHERS* THEM -- BUT I'VE GOT TO POUR ON THE *HEAT* EVEN *MORE!*

GET *LOST*, UGLIES! GO ON BACK TO YOUR *OWN* GALAXY!

I CAN'T SAY I'LL *MISS* YOU!

OHHHH... YOU'RE *WONDERFUL!* YOU *DID* IT!

YES--AND NOW THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* I MUST DO--

--*THIS!*

SKOOM

LET'S *END* THIS *FARCE!* DO YOU THINK YOU CONTINUE TO FOOL MY POWER RING WITH ANOTHER *PROJECTED IMAGE?*

I WANT TO SEE THE *REAL* PILOT OF THIS SHIP *NOW!*

V-VERY *WELL,* GREEN LANTERN... BUT I DON'T THINK YOU WILL *L-LIKE MEETING* ME!

VRRMMM

THREATS, EH? WELL, I'VE HEARD THEM *BEFORE...*

NO, Y-YOU *MISUNDERSTAND!* EVERYTHING MY PROJECTO-IMAGE TOLD YOU WAS *TRUE...*

. ONLY IT WAS ABOUT *ME!*

I-I WAS AFRAID IF YOU SAW WHAT I *REALLY* LOOK LIKE... YOU-YOU'D BE *REPULSED!*

REPULSED?

I AM A *GREEN LANTERN...* *MANY* OF US HAVE GIVEN UP LOVES TO CONTINUE IN THAT DUTY-- FOR *FEW* CAN COMMIT THEMSELVES TO *BOTH!*

I AM NOT *ONE* OF THOSE FEW... AND IF I WERE, THERE IS ONE NAMED CAROL FERRIS WHO HAS CLAIM ON MY HEART. BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR LOVE...

...THAT CAME ACROSS A *GALAXY* TO FIND ME!

SHORTLY...

IT'S *WORTH* HAVING TO REPLACE MY RIG AND CARGO...

...FOR JUST *ONE* KISS LIKE *THAT!*

END

It began in the early seventies as Jack Kirby's Fourth World Trilogy--New Gods, Mister Miracle and the Forever People! Then those magazines were cancelled, and the series lay dormant for years, until it was recently reborn! Now, it is our privilege to present the concluding ADVENTUREs in this epic war of worlds...

WELCOME TO APOKOLIPS--A WORLD FORMED OF SHADOWS, RULED BY MADNESS, FED BY HATE! AFTER ARMAGEDDON, WHEN THE OLD GODS DIED AND THEIR WORLD WAS TORN ASUNDER, TWO NEW DOMINIONS EXPLODED INTO BEING...

ONE WAS NEW GENESIS, WHERE HIGH-FATHER IZAYA DECLARED A MILLENNIUM OF PEACE AND LOVE...

THE OTHER WAS APOKOLIPS, WHERE "PEACE" IS AN ABOMINATION, AND "LOVE" IS A DEGENERATE FEELING..

BORN ON APOKOLIPS WAS THIS YOUNG GOD, A GOD WHOSE HERITAGE IS FIRE AND BLOOD... YET IT IS A HERITAGE TEMPERED BY THE WORLD OF HIS YOUTH AND ADOLESCENCE, THE WORLD OF NEW GENESIS, WHERE HE WAS RAISED TO BECOME--

ORION OF THE NEW GODS

WE'RE FREE!

THIS HAS GOTTA BE A DREAM! EITHER THAT-- OR SOME SORT OF TRICK?

NO TRICK, DAVE! DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S ORION! HE'S COME TO APOKOLIPS TO SAVE US! WOW, WHAT A SONG THIS WOULD MAKE--

BUT WHO'D EVER BELIEVE IT?

VHOOM!

A PLOT... ALL A COMMIE PLOT....! THAT'S IT... GOTTA BE IT...!

AIR... GIMMIE AIR!

CRIPES, I'M GONNA BE SICK...!

SATISFIED, ORION? YOUR HUMAN FRIENDS ARE FREED, NONE THE WORST FOR THEIR EXPERIENCE! I TOLD YOU I'D SHOW YOU WHERE DARKSEID IMPRISONED THEM, DIDN'T I?

NOW WON'T YOU LET ME GO--?

YOU'VE BEEN LITTLE HELP, DESAAD! BUT FOR THE POWER OF MY ASTRO-FORCE, THEY'D STILL BE TRAPPED IN THAT STASIS SPHERE...

I'LL RELEASE YOU, FERRET .. BUT ONLY AFTER YOU'VE PROVIDED AN EXPLANATION!

BUT I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW! DARKSEID'S LEARNED THE FULL ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...

HE KNOWS HE CAN USE IT TO SHATTER THE SECRET OF THE SOURCE...

AND HE'S GONE...TO DO THAT VERY THING!

NOT ENOUGH, DESAAD! YOU THINK TO WEASEL YOUR WAY INTO MY GOOD GRACES BY GIVING ME HALF-TRUTHS AND FABRICATIONS!

DARKSEID IS NO IDLE SCHOLAR! HE HAS A PURPOSE--A DARK PURPOSE FOR WANTING THE SOURCE SECRET..

WHAT IS IT?

LET ME HAVE A SHOT AT HIM, ORION! AFTER THE WAY HE HELPED DARKSEID INVADE MY MIND--I OWE THAT CRUMB!

DAVE, PLEASE..

IT'S OVER! YOU HAVE TO FORGET IT! JUST BE THANKFUL YOU'RE ALIVE!

THIS IS CLAUDIA, REMEMBER? YOUR FIANCEE? THE WOMAN YOU LOVE?

I'M ASKING YOU .. PLEASE LET IT BE! WE'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH!

HONEY, I BECAME A PRIVATE EYE BECAUSE I NEED ANSWERS. THAT'S THE WAY I WAS BUILT... MY WHOLE LIFE'S BEEN ONE BIG QUESTION MARK.

SOMEHOW, ME AND FIVE OTHER PEOPLE WERE CHOSEN TO CARRY PORTIONS OF THIS ANTI-LIFE EQUATION..

MAYBE THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT... SOME KIND OF COSMIC JOKE... BUT MAYBE THERE WAS A REASON FOR IT... A REASON WHY WE WERE PICKED...

I'VE GOT TO KNOW.

ORION?

IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE, DAVID LINCOLN.

NO... I CAN'T STAND *PAIN.* I'LL *TELL* YOU...

QUICKLY THE GOD MAKES GOOD HIS PROMISE: HE TELLS HOW DARKSEID ENGINEERED THE *CAPTURE* OF THE SIX HUMANS WHOSE MINDS CONTAINED THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION*...

HOW DARKSEID PROBED THEIR COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY *RECEIVED* THE EQUATION FROM THE THE DYING *INFINITY MAN*...

INFINITY MAN, THE *BEING FROM BEYOND* WHOSE DESTINY SEEMED LINKED TO THAT OF *THE FOREVER PEOPLE,* A GROUP OF YOUNG *NEW GENESIS* GODS WHO ONCE HELPED *THWART* DARKSEID'S PLOTS ON *EARTH**..

PROCESSING THE INFORMATION GAINED IN DESAAD'S *COMPUTER,* DARKSEID LEARNED AN *INCREDIBLE TRUTH*--

*AS RELATED IN THE *FOREVER PEOPLE* MAGAZINE. --PAUL

SOMEHOW, THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION* WAS THE *KEY* TO BREAKING THE *FINAL BARRIER* PROTECTING THE MYSTIC *SOURCE* FROM THE EYES OF GODS AND MEN

WITH THE EQUATION, DARKSEID COULD LEARN THE *ULTIMATE SECRET* OF THE UNIVERSE ..

AND BY MEANS OF THAT SECRET ... *HE COULD CRUSH THE COSMOS*

LORD! ALL OF THAT...IN *OUR MINDS?* I'M A SCIENTIST... BUT I FIND THAT ABSOLUTELY *BEYOND BELIEF!*

MAN'S MIND IS AN *ENIGMA,* DONALD BRADFORD MOST OF IT IS *DARKNESS*...

MUCH MAY BE *CONCEALED* IN THE SHADOWS OF THE *SUB-CONSCIOUS.*

SO WHAT NOW, MR. ORION? CAN'T YOU SEE MY RICHARD ISN'T WELL? HE NEEDS A DOCTOR--

WHAT HE NEEDS IS A FIX, LITTLE LADY. YOUR BOYFRIEND'S A JUNKIE!

THAT'S A CRUEL THING TO SAY, DAVID!

RICHARD ROE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS HELP, FRIENDS. GENERAL TORCH HAS HAD A BREAKDOWN.

HE KEEPS MUMBLING ABOUT "COMMUNIST PLOTS"... ALL OF THIS MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIS MILITARY MIND TO TAKE.

IT WOULD BE WELL THEN FOR YOU ALL TO RETURN TO EARTH. THIS MOTHER BOX WILL SHOW YOU THE PATH, THOUGH IT MAY BE STRANGE AND TREACHEROUS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ORION? AREN'T YOU COMING?

MY PATH LEADS ME ELSEWHERE, LORRAINE HAMPTON. PERHAPS, IF FATE IS KIND, WE MAY MEET AGAIN.

BUT I DOUBT IT.

TAKE CARE, BUDDY!

THE HUNTER MAKES NO REPLY OTHER THAN A CURT NOD...

IN INSTANT LATER THE SIX ARE GONE, THEIR FRIENDS BESIDE THEM.

YOU SAID.. YOU'D LET ME GO!

I DO NOT LIE. BEGONE, CREATURE...

...I HAVE MORE VITAL CONCERNS, BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR!

THRUSTING ON BEAMS OF ASTRO-FORCE, THE TORMENTED GOD SPRINGS SKYWARD-- DWINDLES LIKE A FADING SUNSET, AND IN A MOMENT--

--VANISHES FROM VIEW!

AND IN THE CIRCULAR PALACE OF NIGHFATHER, IN FAR-OFF AND FAVORED NEW GENESIS, WHERE ORION'S FLIGHT IS OBSERVED BY EYES MADE RED WITH SADNESS...

...IZAYA SIGHS, AS THOUGH SUFFERING FROM A MORTAL WOUND.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO FACE DARKSEID, NOW, IN THIS, THE FINAL BATTLE...

THE CONFLICT HAS ALWAYS BEEN BETWEEN US, AFTER ALL... BETWEEN HIS VIEW OF REALITY AND MINE... HIS DESTINY... AND MINE.

IT WAS DARKSEID WHO CAUSED THE DEATH OF MY WIFE, BELOVED AVIA?

AND IT WAS DARKSEID WHO THUS BEGAN THIS GREAT, CONSUMING GOD-WAR.

"IN NEW GODS #7 -- PAUL

"HE CRAVES DEATH... WHILE MY ONLY DESIRE IS FOR LIFE. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE HAS MADE US MORTAL ENEMIES.

"YET DO I FACE HIM, DO I PIT MY STRENGTH AGAINST HIS?

"NO. I SEND HIS SON TO BE MY AGENT. HIS SON ORION, WHO BECAME A PAWN IN OUR GREAT GAME EVEN AT THE MOMENT OF HIS BIRTH!"

"IS THIS THE BURDEN OF A MAN OF PEACE? TO WANT PEACE SO MUCH... THAT I MUST AVOID ALL CONFLICT...

"..EVEN AT THIS COST? SENDING SON AGAINST FATHER?

"IZAYA, IZAYA..."

WHERE IS YOUR HONOR?

A [illegible] TO ECHO THE OLD GOD'S WORDS...RISING LIKE AN ACCUSATION, AND THEN DRIFTING ONCE MORE... INTO SILENCE

7

A ROOFTOP IN METROPOLIS, ON THE HUMBLE PLANET WE CALL HOME...

LOOKS LIKE THE RIOTING'S GETTING WORSE! THE STREETS ARE BOILING WITH PEOPLE, FIGHTING EACH OTHER, KILLING EACH OTHER.

DON'T SAY THAT, FORAGER.

THE ANTAGONIST SEEMS TO BE WINNING.

EVEN IF TRUE, NEVER SPEAK THOSE WORDS, WE DARE NOT ADMIT DEFEAT.

THE ANTAGONIST IS DARKSEID'S MOST DIABOLICAL CREATION--A BEING EMBODYING THE FULL EVIL OF ANTI-LIFE!

DARKSEID SENT HIM HERE TO DESTROY HUMANKIND--

WHO ASKED YOUR HELP, CREEP?

EH?

--AND IZAYA SENT US TO PREVENT THAT DARK VICTORY!

IF WE DESPAIR, WE CAN NEVER HELP THE HUMANS FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE ANTAGONIST'S INFLUENCE!

CLIMAX of CHAOS

PART THREE: CHAPTER FIVE

courtesy of--
GERRY CONWAY- WRITER •
DON NEWTON – PENCILLER •
AUGIE SCOTTO – INKER •
BEN ODA-LETTERER • JERRY SERPE-COLORIST •

Featuring the creations of JACK KIRBY

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? WE HUMANS LIKE KILLING!

ANTI-LIFE IS EVERYTHING!

WE LIKE TO HURT! WE LIKE TO DIE!

SHUT UP AND CUT THEM DOWN!

BY THE SOURCE... NO!

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9

POW

BEHIND ME! A PHOTON-SHIELD CAN PROTECT US FROM THEIR GUNFIRE--

KPOW

KAKRAK

--BUT ONLY METRON CAN PROTECT US FROM THE HUMANS THEMSELVES!

YOU WISH TO KEEP FROM HARMING THEM DURING BATTLE, LIGHTRAY--PERHAPS AN ADMIRABLE DESIRE, PERHAPS ALSO ULTIMATELY FUTILE!

BUT, AS YOU WISH--

--MY MOBIUS CHAIR WILL BRING A BOOM TUBE INTO EXISTENCE, PROVIDING US WITH AN EXIT, IF NOT A SOLUTION!

AS ONE, THE FOUR GODS PASS THROUGH THE TELEPORTING BOOM TUBE, PASSING FROM ONE SCENE OF CONFLICT--

BOOM

--TO ANOTHER EVEN MORE GRAVE:

METRON, YOU THEORIZING FOOL! YOU'VE LANDED US IN THE HEART OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT --THE WHITE HOUSE!

WHERE IT APPEARS THE SITUATION IS NO BETTER THAN THAT WHICH WE JUST AVOIDED!

MAYBE IT'S TIME WE STOPPED TRYING! KNOWINGLY OR NOT, METRON'S BROUGHT US FACE TO FACE WITH OUR ENEMY--

THE ANTAGONIST! HE'S HERE!

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"THOSE GUARDS--HE'S FLINGING THEM ASIDE LIKE BROKEN TOYS--

"--AND NOW HE'S PLUNGING INTO THE OVAL OFFICE!"

--THOUGH IT MAY MEAN MY LIFE!

--HE CAN START A NUCLEAR WAR!

FOLLOW AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN! I HAVE TO TRY TO STOP HIM--

LIGHTRAY DON'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DOING? IF HE GETS TO THE PRESIDENT-- AND USES THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION ON HIM--

YOU! WHAT A JOYOUS MOMENT, NEW GENESIS WHELP!

EVEN YOUR MIRACULOUS CONTROL OF LIGHT CAN'T DEFEND YOU AGAINST MY WILL--

--YOU ARE MINE!

THESE HUMANS FIGHT LIKE WILDCATS! EVEN THE HEAT OF MY FIERY EYES CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS!

DOES THE FIERCE JEZEBELLE ADMIT DEFEAT?

KRRRPHH

NEVER!

I'LL FIGHT TILL MY LAST BREATH IS *DRAWN*, AND WHEN I GO *DOWN*, MY INSECTOID FRIEND--

I'LL TAKE MY ENEMIES *WITH ME!*

FORAGER WAS *INCORRECT*. IT *WAS MY INTENTION* TO BRING US TO *THE ANTAGONIST*, FOR THIS CONFLICT CAN *ONLY* BE RESOLVED *WITH* CONFLICT...

YET I FEAR THERE IS NO FORCE IN THIS COSMOS STRONG ENOUGH TO CONQUER *THE ANTAGONIST*--

--UNLESS IT BE THE *VERY FORCE* WHICH BROUGHT HIM INTO *BEING!*

ANTI-LIFE! ANTI-LIFE IS THE *KEY* TO HIS *DESTRUCTION!*

IF ONLY I COULD *POSSESS* THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...*

"...BUT IT LIES *SEALED* IN THE MINDS OF *SIX HUMANS*, AND *THEY* REMAIN THE PRISONERS OF VILE *DARKSEID...!*"

METROPOLIS... WE'RE BACK!

BUT DAVE--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

AND AS *DAVE LINCOLN* TURNS A GAPING FACE TOWARD A SCENE OF *INCOMPREHENSIBLE HORROR*, A MILLION LIGHT-YEARS HENCE, A *HUNTER* CLEAVES THE ETERNAL STARRY NIGHT--

--FOLLOWING A PATH HE'S FLOWN *ONCE BEFORE**--

* IN *SUPER-TEAM FAMILY* #15,-- PAUL.

--TOWARD A CONFRONTATION WITH THE DARK SIDE OF HIS SOUL!

FATHER...?

I'VE BEEN *EXPECTING* YOU, ORION. *WAITING* FOR YOU... MORE YEARS THAN YOU CAN *REMEMBER*.

I BELIEVE IT'S TIME WE HAVE A *TALK*.

CAN WE TALK, FATHER? YOU BEING WHAT *YOU* ARE... AND I...BEING *ORION*?

AND WHO IS *ORION*?

IS ORION *MY SON*? THE FLESH OF *MY FLESH*? SPIRIT OF *MY SPIRIT*?

I THINK YOU *ARE MY SON*, BEHIND THAT *GENTLE MASK* FASHIONED BY YOUR *MOTHER BOX*. REMOVE THE MASK, ORION... LET ME *LOOK* AT YOUR TRUE FACE...

PING PING PING PING

...THE FACE YOU WERE *BORN* WITH..

PING PING PING PING

SO. IS THIS THE FACE OF A *NEW GENESIS* CHILD? I THINK NOT. I THINK THIS IS THE FACE OF *DARKSEID'S SON*... A TRUE CHILD OF *APOKOLIPS*, BORN OF *FIRE*, BORN OF *BLOOD*!

YOU *ARE* MY SON, ORION, NO MATTER WHAT IZAYA'S WEAK TEACHINGS MAY HAVE DONE TO YOUR SOUL.

YOU'RE MY SON, *MORE* MY SON THAN THAT *OAF KALIBAK*. TOGETHER, WE CAN BURN *WORLDS*, ORION. TOGETHER, WE CAN CLAIM A *UNIVERSE*!

--*ROUT OUT* THE DISEASE OF *LIFE*! TOGETHER, WE CAN *CONQUER ETERNITY*!

I OFFER YOU *MY HAND*, ORION.

TAKE IT!

FATHER AND SON, WE CAN PUT THIS GALAXY TO THE *TORCH*-- BURN OUT THE OLD *WEAKNESS*, PURIFY THE *FETID FLESH*--

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I...CANNOT

YOU *REALIZE*, THEN, THAT WE MUST HAVE AN *ENDING* TO THIS STRUGGLE A *DEATH*, EITHER YOURS OR MINE.

I REALIZE IT.

ONCE I TOLD YOU ABOUT A *DEVICE* ATTACHED TO MY *HEART*--

--A DEVICE WHICH WOULD *EXPLODE* THE EARTH WHEN MY HEART *CEASED BEATING!*

THAT DEVICE IS *GONE*, HUNTER. YOU WILL HAVE *NO HANDICAP*, AND I *SWEAR* TO YOU--

--NEITHER SHALL I!

*FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL #13. --PAUL

ZZZAYOOM

ARRRHHH

WITH A GEST IKE. SUFFICIENT TO *MELT STONE*, DARKSEID SENDS HIS SON *REELING*, AND THEN ALMOST CONTEMPTUOUSLY--

--SOARS OFF INTO THE GATHERING UNKNOWN!

NEXT ISSUE: THE END!

The ELONGATED Man

SUTTERVILLE: THE SORT OF TOWN YOU NEVER NOTICE--UNLESS YOU HAPPEN TO BE BORN THERE--OR YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE THE WANDERING NATURE OF...

RALPH, DARLING, WE'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD FOR NINE HOURS NOW!

IF WE DON'T GET SOMETHING TO EAT--AND SOON--I'M GOING TO QUIETLY EXPIRE!

GRAND OPENING

JETHRO PAGODA

THEN THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY, SUE DARLING--ASSUMING YOU'VE GOT A YEN FOR CHINESE FOOD!

UH...EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU ARE RALPH DIBNY, AREN'T YOU? THE FAMOUS ELONGATED MAN?!

GUILTY AS CHARGED, I'M AFRAID, WOULD YOU LIKE AN AUTOGRAPH?

...HE'S CHINESE?

JETHRO PAGODA

NO...ah...ACTUALLY, I'M HOMER JETHRO, THE MAYOR OF THIS FAIR CITY--AND THE OWNER OF SUTTERVILLE'S FIRST--AND FINEST--CHINESE RESTAURANT!

I'D LIKE YOU AND YOUR WIFE TO BE MY GUESTS FOR DINNER!

YOUR HONOR, IT WOULD BE OUR HONOR!

AND MOMENTS LATER...

AH...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I MIGHT HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A MOMENT.. I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT MR. AND MRS. ELONGATED MAN!

NO APPLAUSE PLEASE --WE'RE JUST REGULAR PEOPLE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

A TRIVIAL PROBLEM--TRIVIAL! WHEN YOU HAVE CELEBRITIES IN YOUR MIDST, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE ALLOWANCES!

BUT MR. MAYOR--WHERE ARE WE GOING TO PUT THEM?

WE ONLY HAVE TABLES FOR THIRTY PEOPLE!

IF WE HAVE TO, WE'LL BUILD THEM A TABLE!

AND YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO GET INTO SHOW BUSINESS!

MR AND MRS. DIBNY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO **STEVE AND ANN DOUGLAS**, TWO OF SUTTERVILLE'S MORE **PROMINENT** CITIZENS!

CHARMED

I'M SURE!

AFTER AN INTRIGUING FOUR-COURSE DINNER (TWO FROM COLUMN A AND TWO FROM THE ILLUSTRICUS COLUMN B)...

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A **MEAL!** I HAVEN'T HAD FOOD LIKE THIS SINCE THEY GAVE ME THE KEY TO **HONG KONG!**

YOU **THREW UP** IN HONG KONG!

YEAH...BUT AT LEAST I HAD AN **AUDIENCE!**

STORY BY: WEIN, LEVITZ, GOLD, DELARY-GOLD AND MITCHELL

ART BY: RUPPERT AND PATTERSON

LETTERED BY: ROBINS

COLORED BY: OLIVER

CATERED BY: BEEFBURGER, INC.

AN **ADVENTURE** INTO THE WILD AND WONDERFUL!

ANYONE CARE FOR **DESSERT?** THESE LOOK LIKE REALLY TASTY..

...FORTUNE COOKIES?

THAT'S NO **FORTUNE**--THAT'S A THOUSAND DOLLAR BILL!!

A THOUSAND DOLLAR BILL? WHAT'S **GOING ON** HERE?

OH-OH - HERE WE GO **AGAIN!**

The Case of the Fortune Cookie Fortune

MAYBE--IF WE'RE REALLY *LUCKY*--THERE'S SOME SIMPLE *EXPLANATION* FOR ALL THIS...

SURE THERE IS!

THIS CAN'T BE SOME SORT OF *PUBLICITY STUNT!* WHO IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD GIVE AWAY PERFECTLY GOOD *MONEY?*

REALLY? HERE? YOU'RE KIDDING!

THAT'S *FABULOUS!* SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL FINALLY PUT *SUTTERVILLE* ON THE *MAP!*

DO ME A *FAVOR*, MR. MAYOR--SAVE THE *CONGRATULATIONS* UNTIL I'VE *EARNED* THEM!

Y-YOU DON'T MEAN YOU THINK *I* PUT ALL THAT MONEY IN...

EXIT

IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IN THE *RESTAURANT* GOT A THOUSAND DOLLAR BILL WITH THEIR DESSERT!

WELL, THERE GOES THE *EVENING!*

A NOSE-TWITCHING *MYSTERY* IF I EVER *SAW* ONE...AND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'M GOING TO *SOLVE* IT!

THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR... *THE ELONGATED MAN!*

CAN YOU *IMAGINE*-- THE *ELONGATED MAN* SUTTERVILLE'S VERY OWN PERSONAL *SUPERHERO!*

I CAN SEE THE HEADLINES *NOW!*

THIS IS DEFINITELY GETTING *OUT OF HAND!*

WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN *CHEAPER* JUST TO BUY A *FRONT PAGE* *AD*, MR. MAYOR?

NOT REALLY... *NOBODY* GIVES AWAY $30,000 WITHOUT INVITING A SINGLE *REPORTER* TO WATCH--NOT IF HE WANTS THE *PUBLICITY*, ANYWAY.

SOMEHOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOUR COOK ACCIDENTLY SERVED UP A *FIVE FIGURE FEAST!*

BUT IF *YOU* DIDN'T DO IT, SOMEONE ON *YOUR STAFF* MUST HAVE!

BUT AFTER A FEW FUTILE QUESTIONS...

I'M *TELLING* YOU--NOBODY *TOUCHED* THE FORTUNE COOKIES! NOBODY *WANTED* TO TOUCH THE COOKIES!

--AND *IF* I EVER HAD THIRTY GRAND...WHICH I *DON'T*--I SURE WOULDN'T *GIVE IT AWAY!*

BUT *SOMEBODY* HAD TO HANDLE THE FORTUNE COOKIES...SO *WHO?*

JUST *BENNY JACKSON*--HE PICKED THEM UP FOR US THIS MORNING AT THE *ITALIAN BAKERY* ACROSS TOWN!

AH-*AH!* SUDDENLY IT ALL BECOMES *CLEAR*: JUST ONE *QUESTION*, THOUGH, MR. MAYOR--

--WHO IS *BENNY JACKSON?!*

WHY, HE'S MY *HEAD WAITER!*

GLUE! THAT *HEAD WAITER*--THE GUY WHO DIDN'T WANT TO LET US *IN*--

ONE CAREFUL CONTORTION LATER...

--I DON'T *SEE* HIM ANYWHERE!

THAT'S BECAUSE HE RAN OUT THE FRONT DOOR WHEN YOU WENT INTO THE *KITCHEN*, DARLING--BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO *DISCOVER* THAT LITTLE FACT FOR YOURSELF!

IF YOU'RE REALLY *INTERESTED*, THOUGH...I THINK I SAW HIM HEAD DOWN THE *STREET!*

THEN THAT'S WHERE *I'D* BETTER HEAD...AND *FAST!*

IN FACT, I THINK A *BIRD'S EYE* VIEW IS IN ORDER--

I'M NOT GOING TO BE *SATISFIED* TILL I'VE ASKED BENNY JACKSON THE *THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR QUESTION!*

BUT BEFORE I CAN ASK HIM *ANYTHING* I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *FIND* THE LITTLE DEVIL--

--WHICH DEFINITELY REQUIRE A FRESH *VIEW* OF THE SITUATION!

--AND UNLESS MY BEADY EYES *DECEIVE* ME, THERE'S THE ELUSIVE *BENNY JACKSON* UP AHEAD --SHEDDING HIS COAT AND FLYING AWAY!

BUT AS FAST AS HE CAN RIDE--I CAN STRIDE!

AND A FEW HIGH-STRIDING MINUTES LATER...

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, BUT DID YOU SEE A BIG BLUE CONVERTIBLE GO--

LISTEN, MAC-- THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY--NO TRESPASSING!

IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS HERE, PROVE IT... IF NOT, TAKE A HIKE!

AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT HE'S NOT GOING ALL THAT FAR ANYWAY-- SINCE THIS ROAD ONLY LEADS TO THE LOCAL AIRPORT!

NO POINT IN GETTING HOSTILE, NEIGHBORS

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME HERE, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY SO!

HEY!?

WHAT IS THIS-- I CAN'T GET A GRIP ON THIS GUY!

TSK, TSK--HAVEN'T YOU BOYS EVER PULLED TAFFY. BEFORE? OR BETTER STILL, HAVE YOU EVER PULLED A RUBBER BAND--

HUNH?

..AND WATCHED IT SNAP BACK?

UNNGGHH!

UNNFF!!

KLUNK!

SLIPPING EEL-LIKE THROUGH THE CHAIN LINK FENCE, THE **DUCTILE DETECTIVE** FOLLOWS THE SOUND OF A REVVING **MOTOR** TO FIND HE'S...

TOO **LATE!** JACKSON MUST HAVE HAD A PLANE **WAIT-ING!**

BUT MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE I CAN **REACH** IT--

--JUST MAYBEEEEEE!

YEOW-- CAUGHT IN THE **PROPELLOR!**

THIS IS **NOT** WHAT I HAD IN MIND--BUT IT **DID** GET ME **UP** HERE FAST!

AND IT'LL **CHEW ME TO RIBBONS** JUST AS FAST-- UNLESS I CAN GRAB HOLD OF **SOMETHING ELSE!**

JUST A FEW MORE **INCHES** --AND I'LL HAVE THAT **STRUT** IN HAND!

AND WITH **LUCK,** I'LL STILL HAVE **FIVE FINGERS** ON THAT HAND IN THE BARGAIN!

NOW IF I CAN JUST **SQUEEZE** THROUGH THIS CONVENIENT **RIVET HOLE**--

HELLO THERE! MISTER JACKSON I PRESUME?

WHAT THE--? THE **ELONGATED MAN??** **HERE??**

IF NOT *HERE*, WHERE *ELSE*? I HAVE A REPUTATION FOR INVOLVING MYSELF IN WEIRD *MYSTERIES*, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE *WEIRDEST*...

HEY--HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU SOMEPLACE *BEFORE*, BENNY BOY?

ONLY *EVERYWHERE*!

I KNEW I'D NEVER GET *AWAY* WITH THIS CHARADE!

SOMEBODY HAD TO RECOGNIZE *BENNY JACKSON* AS THE FAMOUS COMEDIAN *BENNY MAXWELL*!

...NOT THAT ANYBODY *KNOWS* IT'S MY OLD HOME TOWN!

A *THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR* BANKROLL!

ESPECIALLY IN MY *OLD HOME* TOWN...

AFTER ALL, I *LEFT* HERE WHEN I WAS JUST A *KID*--WITH A *BANKROLL* I SORT OF...*uh*...*BORROWED* DURING MY STINT AS A *TELLER* AT THE *SUTTERVILLE SAVINGS AND LOAN*!

BUT I GUESS I'VE *BLOWN* IT ALL ANYWAY! I'LL TELL THE PILOT TO HEAD BACK TO SUTTERVILLE!

NOPE...YOU'VE ALREADY *DONE* THAT, BENNY--AND IT LOOKS LIKE SUTTERVILLE'S UNINTENTIONAL *INVESTMENT* IN YOU HAS *PAID OFF*!

--WHICH YOU WERE FINALLY ABLE TO *REPAY*!

BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT--NOT *OPENLY*--NOT SO LONG AS MY *PUBLIC IMAGE* IS SUPPOSED TO BE *CHEAP BUT HONEST*!

--AND THEN I'LL FINALLY FACE THE *MUSIC*!

MY REPUTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN RUINED ON *BOTH* COUNTS! AND MY CAREER WITH IT!

WHILE I COLLECTED THE *INTEREST*--IN THE FORM OF AN INTERESTING *MYSTERY* TO UNRAVEL!

...I'M GOING BACK TO *SUTTERVILLE*--TO KEEP AN APPOINTMENT WITH A *FORTUNE COOKIE*!

AND NOW IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME...

IT'S BEEN OVER AN *HOUR* SINCE I'VE HAD ANYTHING TO *EAT*--

--AND I'M HUNGRY AGAIN!

Wonder Woman

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF **ATHENA**, THE STRENGTH OF **HERCULES**, THE SPEED OF **MERCURY** AND THE BEAUTY OF **APHRODITE** BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND **RENOUNCED** HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MAN'S WORLD AS THE MOST **LEGENDARY** AMAZON OF ALL...

CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

HARKEN, YOU WHO SEEK TO KNOW THE REASONS OF **WHY** THINGS ARE...

I AM **QUEEN HIPPOLYTE**, RULER OF THE AMAZONS OF **PARADISE ISLAND**. AND THE **MOTHER** OF **WONDER WOMAN!**

YOUR UNASKED QUESTIONS REACH ME AND I AM HERE TO ANSWER! WAS PRINCESS DIANA CHOSEN TO BE OUR EMISSARY TO MAN'S WORLD BY FEATS OF **STRENGTH ALONE?** OR WERE THERE OTHER REASONS?

OBSERVE! AND LEARN AS OTHERS LEARNED...

The SHARK'S DARK Demand

AN ADVENTURE INTO LEGEND BY:

JACK C. HARRIS *WRITER* ☆ JACK ABEL AND FRANK GIACOIA *ARTISTS* ☆ SHELLY LEFERMAN, *LETTERER* GENE D'ANGELO, *COLORIST*

THOUGH HER MISSION IS TO BRING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO MAN'S WORLD, OFTTIMES WONDER WOMAN SEEKS THE SOLACE OF HOME. .

. .PARADISE ISLAND! I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK THERE IN MONTHS!

STRANGE HOW LONELY ONE CAN GET EVEN WHEN THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE ALL--

BUT THE COMFORTING THOUGHTS ARE NEVER COMPLETED AS...

FWOOSSHH

UNN--BEING THROWN FREE OF MY PLANE--BUT I CAN STILL CONTROL IT--BY MENTAL COMMANDS!

PLANE! TO THE SURFACE!

RESPONDING IMMEDIATELY, THE PLANE PULLS ITS MISTRESS ABOVE THE TURBULENT WATERS...

WHEW! DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THAT, BUT I THINK I'LL INCREASE MY ALTITUDE THE REST OF THE WAY HOME!

YOU SHALL NOT BE RETURNING TO YOUR ABODE, FEMALE!

WHO IN--

GREAT HERA!

I AM THE SHARK, FEMALE-- THE SHARK! YOU'LL DO WELL TO REMEMBER MY NAME!

BUT AQUAMAN TOLD ME YOU WERE **HELPLESS**-- THAT YOU'D REVERTED TO **SHARK FORM!**

THE SO-CALLED SEA KING WAS **MISTAKEN,** FEMALE...

*INSTANTLY, THE AMAZON **REMEMBERS** HOW THE DREADED SUPER-EVOLVED MENACE CAME TO BE...*

...HOW A STRAY BOLT OF **ATOMIC** ENERGY HAD STRUCK THE BRAIN OF A TIGER SHARK AND SPED IT THROUGH THE **EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS...**

SHE RECALLS HOW THIS NEW CREATURE RETAINED THE SHARK'S RELENTLESS DESIRE FOR PREY... THE LOVE OF THE HUNT AND THE KILL...

...HOW HE SOUGHT OUT OPPONENTS HE FELT **WORTHY**--SUPER OPPONENTS SUCH AS **GREEN LANTERN, SUPERMAN** AND **AQUAMAN...**

"I READ YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR MEMORIES ARE CORRECT-- UP TO A POINT!"

"I **WAS** REVERTED TO MY ORIGINAL PRIMITIVE FORM--BUT MY MUTATED **BRAIN** REMAINED UNCHANGED!"

MY POWER IS **STILL STRONG!** IN TIME, MY BODY WILL ONCE AGAIN CLIMB THE EVOLUTIONARY SCALE!

AND I WAS **CORRECT!** I NEEDED ONLY **PATIENCE** AND I KNEW I WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE READY!

THIS TIME I AM READY FOR **YOU!**

IF YOU THINK THE MEMBERS OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* ARE YOUR PERSONAL GAME PRESERVE--

WHUMP!

--YOU'RE *DEAD* WRONG!

UNN--! HIS MUTANT STRENGTH GAVE HIM A JAW LIKE STEEL!

KER-SPLASH

HE'S *DIVING*! I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM! I CAN'T LET HIM CATCH ME OFF GUARD AGAIN!

NO SIGN OF HIM! HOW COULD HE HAVE *DISAPPEARED* SO FAST?

HE COULD BE HIDING IN THAT OLD SPANISH GALLEON--BUT *WHY*? I'VE HEARD OF HIS STRENGTH FROM THE OTHERS WHO'VE FOUGHT HIM...

... I THOUGHT HE'D RECOVER *IMMEDIATELY*..!

HMMM, MAYBE I'M *UNDERESTIMATING* MYSELF. MAYBE MY PUNCH DROVE HIM AWAY...

...BUT SOMEHOW I *DOUBT* IT!

ONCE AGAIN, THE AMAZON PRINCESS WINGS HER WAY TOWARD PARADISE ISLAND, THE ENCHANTED ISLE HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THE MYSTIC BERMUDA TRIANGLE...

THE SHARK IS VERY SELECTIVE ABOUT HIS OPPONENTS --CHOOSING ONLY THOSE HE FEELS CAN GIVE HIM THE CONFLICT HE CRAVES...

IT'S ALMOST FLATTERING KNOWING THE SHARK--A CHAUVINISTIC MALE--EQUATES ME WITH SUPERMAN, AQUAMAN AND GREEN LANTERN!

I'LL ALERT THE OTHERS... LET THEM KNOW SHARK HAS RETURNED AND--

--NO! NOT THERE--!

THERE'S THE SHARK-- STEPPING ONTO PARADISE ISLAND--

--WHERE NO MAN MUST EVER SET FOOT!

I CAN'T LET HIM GO ANY FARTHER--

BY APHRODITE'S LAW, ANY MAN SETTING FOOT ON PARADISE ISLAND WILL ROB ALL AMAZONS OF THEIR POWERS--AND THEIR IMMORTALITY!

BUT, AS THE AMAZON THROWS HER MAGIC LASSO...

AHH, FEMALE! YOUR MIND TELLS ME YOU DO NOT REMEMBER MY SUPERIOR METAL PROWESS--

--ABILITIES THAT CAN KEEP YOUR LARIAT FROM ENCOMPASSING ME...

...AND CAN BEND THE VERY WAVES TO MY WILL!

BY THE SHADES OF PLUTO!

5

WITNESS MY POWERS, FEMALE! SEE HOW *EASILY* I CAN WRENCH MENTAL CONTROL OF YOUR GOLDEN LASSO FROM YOUR WILL!

HE'S CONCENTRATING ON CONTROLLING THE LASSO --BUT I STILL COMMAND MY *PLANE!*

ARRAAH!

HE'S HIT THE WATER--I MIGHT ONLY HAVE SECONDS TO FREE MYSELF!

SPIN, PLANE-- FASTER, *FASTER!*

IT'S WORKING! THE OPPOSITE TURN OF THE SPINNING PLANE IS UNDOING THE LASSO!

6

FREE! BUT FOR HOW LONG? IF THE SHARK CAN CONTROL MY LASSO, HE'LL SOON FIGURE OUT HE CAN COMMAND MY PLANE AS WELL!

HAVE TO CONCENTRATE -- KEEP THAT THOUGHT FROM REACHING THE SHARK'S MIND.

BUT SO...HARD...TRYING TO KEEP FROM THINKING ABOUT THEM!

BUT FATHOMS BELOW, SOMEONE ELSE IS PREPARING A PLAN OF ACTION--A DEADLY PLAN...!

EXCELLENT! KEEP YOUR WEAKNESSES IN YOUR BRAIN, DEAR FEMALE-- I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS MOST CLEARLY...

WHAT!?

...AND I NOW KNOW THAT WHEN A MAN CHAINS YOUR BRACELETS TOGETHER --

MERCIFUL MINERVA!

--YOU LOSE YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH!

HELPLESS--I MUST PLAY FOR TIME...HOPE I CAN TRICK HIM...

SO YOU'VE WON, SHARK! IS IT PLEASANT? DID I MAKE A POWERFUL ENOUGH FOE FOR YOU--PREY TO SATISFY YOUR THIRST FOR--

SILENCE! YOU THINK YOU--A FEMALE--ARE WORTHY PREY FOR THE SHARK!? HA!

BUT--BUT THAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION! PREY! YOU CONSTANTLY SEEK HUMAN PREY!

HA! HA! HA! YOUR COMPATRIOTS HAVE INFORMED YOU OF MY SEARCH FOR PREY? WELL, THEY ARE INDEED CORRECT--!

AS I EVOLVED THROUGH MY SPECIES' EVOLUTIONARY STAGES I DID RETAIN MY ANCESTORS' ETERNAL LUST FOR PREY--THE HUNGER FOR DESTRUCTION...

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER DESIRE --A SECOND PRIMITIVE DRIVE THAT BROUGHT ME TO YOU, FEMALE--

--THE DESIRE TO TAKE A MATE!

AS SHARK COMMANDS WONDER WOMAN'S PLANE TO LAND ON A SMALL ISLAND...

YOU SHALL BE *MINE*--SUBJECT ONLY TO MY WILL! THIS IS WHY I HAD TO CONQUER YOU--TO PROVE YOU MUST BEND TO MY EVERY WHIM!

SUDDENLY, THE TRANSPARENT PLANE LURCHES...

YOU ONLY PROLONG THE INEVITABLE, FEMALE--COMMANDING YOUR PLANE TO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES!

I'LL NEVER STOP FIGHTING YOU, SHARK! I'LL NEVER BE YOUR WILLING MATE!

KA-BLAMM

IT IS WELL! A MATE WHO WILL CONSTANTLY SUPPLY ME WITH WORTHY COMBAT WILL PROVE MOST SATISFYING!

NO! HE'S OVERTAKEN THE PLANE BY HIS *MUTANT MENTAL POWERS!*

IT'S *USELESS* TO STRUGGLE. SHARK IS *RIGHT*. IF A *MAN* BINDS MY BRACELETS TOGETHER, MY STRENGTH IS *NEGATED*! UNNN--!

AHHH-NAHA HAHAHA!

WAIT! THANK HERA I HAVE THE ANSWER!

IF A MAN SETS FOOT ON PARADISE ISLAND -- AMAZONS LOSE THEIR POWERS--!

BUT WHEN SHARK SET FOOT ON OUR ISLAND --NOTHING HAPPENED!

THEREFORE HE MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE GODS AS A MAN--SINCE HE WAS NOT BORN OF A WOMAN!

AND SINCE A TRUE MAN DID NOT BIND ME--

--I'VE RETAINED MY AMAZONIAN STRENGTH!

AARRGH!

CLANG

FOOL...YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND UP TO THE SUPERIOR POWER OF MY BRAIN?

NOT REALLY...

...BUT IF YOU HAVE NO CHANCE TO THINK--

GRAGK

UNNFF--!

--ABOUT ANYTHING-- THERE ISN'T ANTHING YOU CAN DO!

WHAAMM

AHHRRRHH!

I CAUGHT HIM COMPLETELY OFF GUARD -- HE'S OUT COLD. BUT I CAN'T REALLY *BLAME HIM* FOR WHAT HE'S DONE...

HE'S THE RESULT OF MAN'S *MEDDLING* WITH ATOMIC POWER AND THE BASIC PRIMITIVE INSTINCTS THE OUTSIDE CIVILIZATIONS STILL EXPRESS SO READILY...

I'VE SELECTED THIS LOCATION ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, SHARK, SO LISTEN TO THE COMMANDS YOU ARE NOW *COMPELLED TO OBEY* BY THE MAGIC OF MY LASSO...

COMPELLED ...TO...OBEY...

--YOU WILL *RETURN* TO YOUR SHARK STATE --AND NEVER, *NEVER* RETURN TO HUMAN CONFIGURATION!

NEVER... RETURN...

DAZED AND DEFEATED, THE SHARK'S MUTANT BRAIN SUBMITS TO THE ANCIENT MAGIC WITHIN THE GOLDEN LASSO...

...AND THAT SECRET CORNER OF THE MIND THAT CONTROLS THE INVOLUNTARY EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS--MOVES IN REVERSE!

GOOD! COUPLED WITH HIS OWN KIND, PERHAPS THE SHARK WILL AT LAST BE CONTENT...

NOW I CAN HEAD FOR HOME...

SHE SEEKS NOT TO *PUNISH* THE UNJUST --OR EVEN TO IMPRISON THOSE WHO WOULD DO HER HARM...

SHE--PRINCESS DIANA, THE PRINCESS OF AMAZONS--BATTLES EVIL WITH WEAPONS OF LOVE, UNDERSTANDING...

...AND COMPASSION!

HOLA, MY DAUGHTER--WELCOME HOME!

HOLA! HOLA, WONDER WOMAN!

End

DATELINE:

ADVENTURE COMICS

1986-7

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER: For instance, this issue and next issue contain the concluding chapters of the **New Gods-Darkseid** cosmic struggle, a story that needed telling, but could not have fit within the creative confines of any other **DC** comic.

Which leads to the question of exactly what will fit within the confines of **ADVENTURE COMICS.** As we said, we're not going to set any limits, but here's a look at what our current plans include:

THE FLASH will be speeding his way through these pages for the indefinite future, courtesy of Cary Bates and Irv Novick, the creative team that guides his adventures in his own magazine. But unlike the Central City/supporting cast-oriented epics that appear elsewhere, our stories will concentrate on aspects of the Fastest Man Alive that have been ignored the past few years. Future storylines include journeys to far off times and dimensions, and explorations of the unique powers that make Barry Allen **The Flash.**

DEADMAN is perhaps the archtypical **ADVENTURE COMICS** series. Ever since the ghost of Boston Brand lost his own series in 1969, comics fans have been moaning his disappearance and at the same time dreading any new series that would be done by lesser talents. His new adventures answer both these wishes, since we're uniting Len Wein and Jim Aparo, two of the top talents in comics today to chronicle the continuing saga of the Hills Brothers circus and its ghostly guardian, **Deadman**

WONDER WOMAN represents the distaff side of our line-up, ably assisted by Jack C. Harris and Jack Abel handing the Amazon's archives. While Diana's own magazine focuses on her new career as an astronaut trainee, and the science-fiction plotlines that spawns, her adventures here will pay more attention to the mythological background that makes her unique among our super-stars, and featuring her in action against super-villains she has never fought.

GREEN LANTERN is the fourth and final "regular" star in our line-up, and it's easy to justify his place in our firmament since he has been without his own regular series for the past couple of years. The Emerald Crusader will be put through a series of explorations and adventures that would be wholly impossible if **Green Arrow** was in the series, and regular artist Joe Staton gets to fulfill a lifelong dream by illustrating these epics. As of this writing, we're not certain who will script subsequent stories of **Green Lantern.**

The other two features in **ADVENTURE COMICS** are a direct descendant of the finest feature this magazine has had for the last four or five years—an ever-changing experimental area in the back of the book. This issue we proudly present the awesome epic of the **New Gods,** and an **Elongated Man** short story as an amusing counterpoint. Next issue we'll conclude the **New Gods'** armageddon, and then begin a new series entitled **The Man Called Neverwhere** by Roger McKenzie and Don Newton. The litany of other ideas that have been proposed for these two slots is almost endless, and will provide one of the main ways we'll keep **ADVENTURE COMICS** surprising every issue.

There are three more special features of **ADVENTURE COMICS** that deserve notice, by our count. First of all, there's this space—which will return to its usual role as the magazine's letter column next issue. Because of the constantly evolving nature of **ADVENTURE COMICS,** we can make better use of your comments and criticism than any other magazine. And that makes it all–important that you bombard us with your feelings about the magazine, and all its contents.

Speaking of contents, you'll notice that we have a very unusual contents listing. We recommend it to you as a guide to the buying of future issues, and would appreciate your suggestions about refining it further. Should we list the creative talent that worked on each story, or run short teaser sentences about the plots?

Finally, there's the cover that lured you to buy this magazine; and its successors which will hopefully attract you to future issues. Be warned—you'll never know what to expect on our cover. Sometimes there will be poster-style shots, like this issue. Occasionally we'll spotlight one or another of our regular characters. And from time to time we'll probably split the cover up to highlight two or more tales. The trick is to look for our striking new logo, designed by Sol Harrison and Gaspar Saladino, and to let that serve as the beacon drawing you to the excitement of the new **ADVENTURE COMICS.**

Without a doubt, we want this magazine and format to succeed more than we have ever wanted any of our titles to take off. So please send us your comments and criticism, creative suggestions and collected analyses. We'll be listening, and hoping that you have enjoyed our efforts.

Paul Levitz, Editor
ADVENTURE COMICS
DC Comics Inc.
75 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10019

Presenting THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURE COMICS!

ONE OF THE MEN IN THIS ROOM IS...

THE FLASH!

PAGE 1

AT LAST! A NEW DEADMAN SERIES!

PAGE 13

GREEN LANTERN

IN A SOLO SPACE ACTION!

PAGE 23

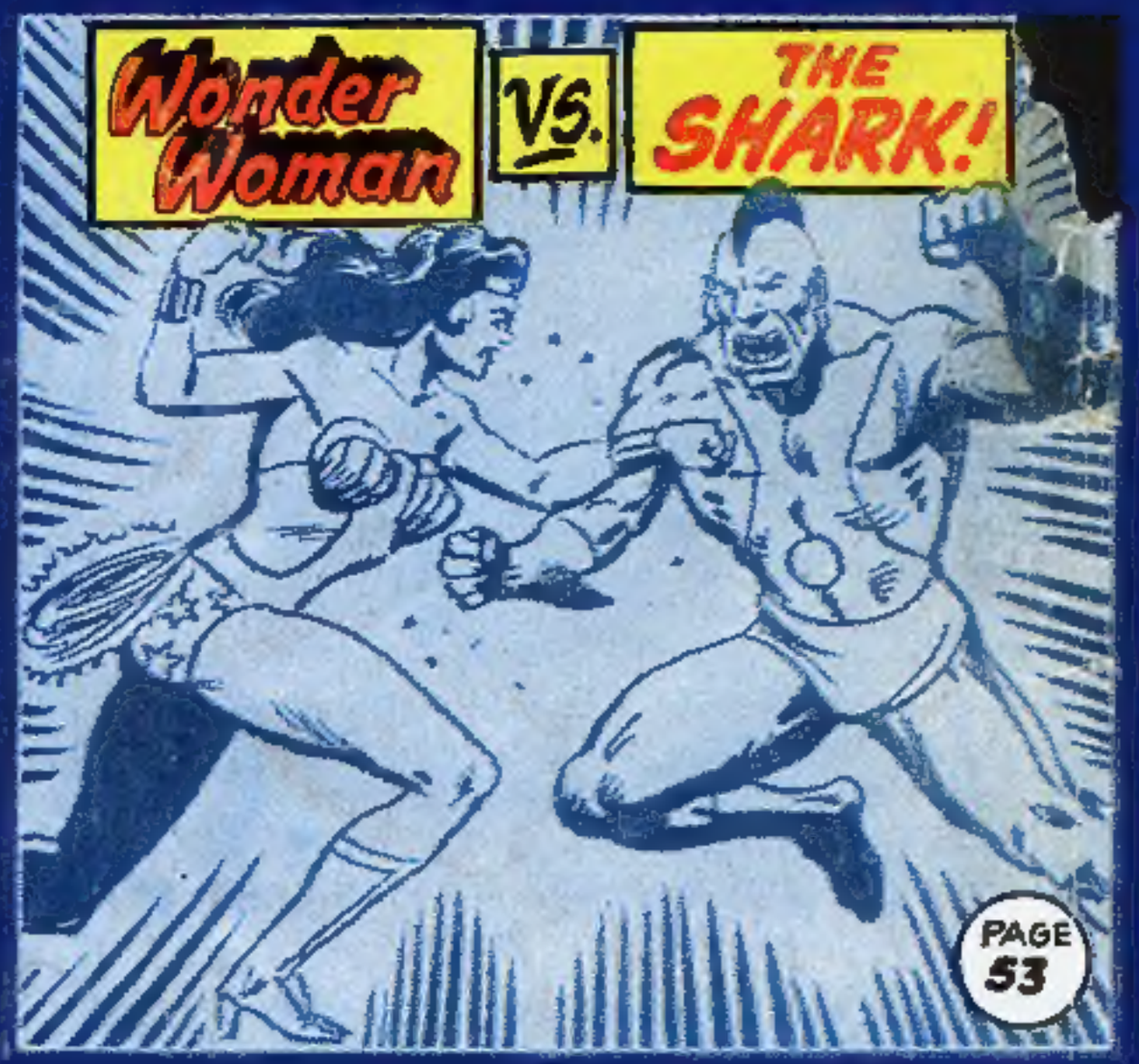
IS THIS THE END OF... THE NEW GODS?

$1,000 IN A FORTUNE COOKIE?

The ELONGATED Man

PAGE 46

Wonder Woman VS. THE SHARK!



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